UNITED
NATIONS

E

Economic and Social Council

Distr.
GENERAL

E/1991/21
28 March 1991

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

First regular session of 1991
13-31 May 1991
Item 9 of the provisional agenda*

ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN

Report of the Board of Trustees of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women on its eleventh session

SUMMARY

During its eleventh session, the Board of Trustees of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW) reviewed the work accomplished by the Institute during 1990. Cooperation with the regional commissions, INSTRAW focal points and correspondents were discussed as mandated by the Institute's statute and endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolutions 42/65 of 30 November 1987 and 44/60 of 8 December 1989. The Board examined a report on the commencement of an INSTRAW Review/special issue publications series and reviewed the detailed project plan for the development of communications materials on women and development. Furthermore, in order to facilitate Institute functioning, the Board examined ways and means to develop strategies for strengthening its outreach at the international, regional and national levels.

The Board unanimously expressed confidence in the progress made in implementing the INSTRAW programme for the biennium 1990-1991 and agreed that the impact of INSTRAW's work is most effective when its training and research activities are integrated within the mainstream of development at regional and national levels, noting the importance, in particular, of collaboration with the regional commissions, INSTRAW focal points, non-governmental organizations

* E/1991/30.

and government machineries to ensure such integration. It reconfirmed the importance of INSTRAW's catalytic contribution to development of a methodology for compiling gender-specific statistics for policy-making related to women's role in the informal sector, including agriculture.

The Board agreed that the issue of women and poverty was of high priority for inclusion in the biennium's work programme and recommended, given the magnitude of changes occurring in Eastern Europe, that INSTRAW initiate a project focusing on women in countries in transition. It also emphasized that every effort should be made to make INSTRAW publications available in three languages: English, French and Spanish.

The Board recommended that INSTRAW commence a special issue publications series, with the first issue on women and the environment, in preparation for the Global Assembly on Women and the Environment in November 1991 and the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 1992. It endorsed the programme on development of communications materials on women and development.

The Board considered ways of strengthening its relationship with the regional commissions and INSTRAW national focal points, which are an essential part of the Institute's outreach strategy at the regional and national levels. It agreed to establish not only a Strategic Planning Committee to provide policy guidance to the Institute and a Finance Committee to strengthen the Institute's financial base but also, in principle, INSTRAW representation within each of the five regions, as funds permit.

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I. MATTERS BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Decisions adopted by the Board

1. The decisions set out in the following paragraphs, which were adopted by the Board of Trustees of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW) at its eleventh session, are brought to the attention of the Economic and Social Council.

1. Implementation of the work programme for 1990: progress report on the Institute

2. The Board expressed confidence in the progress made in implementing the INSTRAW programme for the 1990-1991 biennium, noting that 11 regional and national training workshops had been held during 1990.

3. The Board paid tribute to INSTRAW's first director, Dunja Pastizzi-Ferencic, for her tireless efforts, work and dedication to making the Institute a strategic organization within the United Nations system devoted to the advancement of women.

4. In discussing the launching of two new programmes during the period under review, namely, on women, the environment and sustainable development and on development of communications materials on women and development, the Board noted with gratitude the Government of Italy's funding of the latter.

5. The Board agreed that the issue of women and poverty was of high priority for inclusion in the next biennium's work programme.

6. Due to the magnitude of the changes occurring in Eastern Europe, the Board recommended that INSTRAW should initiate a project focusing on women in countries in transition.

7. The Board agreed that the impact of INSTRAW's work is most effective when its training and research activities are integrated within the mainstream of development at the regional and national level. It noted, in particular, the importance of collaboration with regional commissions, INSTRAW focal points, non-governmental organizations and government machineries to ensure such integration.

8. The Board reconfirmed the importance of INSTRAW's catalytic contribution to development of a methodology for compiling gender-specific statistics for policy-making related to women's role in the informal sector, including agriculture.

9. The Board agreed that the funds allocated for development of training modules on financial policies should be used to publish the report of the seminar on women and credit.

10. The Board agreed that every effort should be made to have INSTRAW publications available in three languages: English, French and Spanish.

11. The Board agreed that a research project on the topic of women and AIDS would be undertaken at the request of the World Health Organization (WHO), with funds provided by that institution.

12. The Board noted that INSTRAW's financial situation was sufficiently secure to enable the completion of the proposed programme for 1990-1991 and decided that fund-raising efforts should begin to have an equally sound financial basis for the new biennium.

2. Cooperation with regional commissions, INSTRAW focal points and correspondents

13. The Board considered ways of strengthening its relationship with the regional commissions and INSTRAW national focal points, which are an essential part of the Institute's outreach strategy at the regional and national levels. Noting that a successful regional meeting of focal points in the Mediterranean region had been held at Ljubljana, Yugoslavia, on 21 September 1990, it considered that this meeting could serve as a model for further regional meetings of focal points.

14. With a view to strengthening the role of focal points, the Board agreed that revised guidelines would be established and disseminated to all focal points.

15. The Board endorsed the nomination of two new focal points, the Korean Women's Development Institute (KWDI), in the Republic of Korea, and the Bureau of the Plenipotentiary on the Advancement of Women, in Poland. It also agreed that the focal point in Denmark should be transferred from the Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA) to Kvindernes U-Landsudvalg (KULU) (INSTRAW/BT/1991/R.3/Add.1).

3. Outline of preview issue: INSTRAW Review

16. The Board agreed that INSTRAW should commence a review/special issue publications series, with the first issue on women and environment in preparation for the Global Assembly on Women and the Environment in November 1991 and the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 1992.

4. Development of communications materials on women and development

17. Welcoming the financial support of the Government of Italy, the Board endorsed the programme on development of communications materials on women and development to be undertaken over a two-year period in three Latin American countries - Argentina, Colombia and the Dominican Republic.

5. Other matters related to the functioning of the Institute

18. In accordance with rule 18 of its rules of procedure the Board agreed to establish both a Strategic Planning Committee to provide policy guidance to the Institute and a Finance Committee to strengthen its financial base.

19. While confirming that the headquarters of INSTRAW would remain in the Dominican Republic, the Board agreed in principle to the establishment, as funds permit, of an INSTRAW representation in each of the five regions. It also approved the immediate strenghening of the New York office from within its existing budget.

II. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WORK PROGRAMME FOR 1990: PROGRESS REPORT ON THE INSTITUTE

20. In considering item 4 of its agenda, the Board had before it the following documents:

(a) Implementation of the work programme for 1990: progress report on the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women: report prepared by the Institute (INSTRAW/BT/1991/R.2);

(b) Methods of collecting and analysing statistics on women in the informal sector and their contribution to the national product: results of the regional workshops (INSTRAW/BT/1991/CRP.1);

(c) Women and AIDS: a new dimension to discrimination (INSTRAW/BT/1991/CRP.2);

(d) Report on the scholarship and internship programmes at INSTRAW (INSTRAW/BT/1991/CRP.3);

(e) Financial situation of INSTRAW (INSTRAW/BT/1991/CRP.5).

21. The Deputy Director gave a comprehensive summary of implementation of the work programme during 1990. Referring to decisions taken by the Board at its tenth session, she noted that the Institute would continue to carry out programmes that had been initiated in previous years but was currently trying to consolidate important but diverse programmes in order to chart a more focused direction for the biennium 1992-1993.

22. The Board was informed of some of the major activities undertaken during 1990. Within the Institute's programme on statistics, three national workshops had been successfully organized, in Puerto Rico, Malaysia and the Sudan, while preparations were under way for a subregional workshop for French-speaking African countries and one for the South Pacific region. Particular mention was made of the project funded by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) entitled "Improving African women's role in informal sector production and management" and of a new aspect of the Institute's work related to concepts and methods for improving statistics on ageing women.

23. Turning to the programmes on research for policy design, the Deputy Director informed the Board that the survey entitled "The women in development dimension in evaluation methodologies: a survey of approaches by the organizations of the United Nations system" would be completed during 1991. She highlighted the new programme begun by the Institute on women, the environment and sustainable development and the research being carried out in this area. INSTRAW hoped to present the results of that research at a Global Assembly on Women and the Environment convened by the United Nations Environment Programme Senior Women Assembly Group (SWAG) in Miami, Florida, from 4 to 8 November 1991.

24. Other INSTRAW programmes were elaborated upon and relevant information was provided on the Institute's activities related to women, the water supply and sanitation as well as to women and new and renewable sources of energy.

25. During the period under review, a new orientation had been given to the Institute's internship and scholarship programmes. A new programme on development of communications materials on women and development had been made possible with funding from the Government of Italy; and the Board was informed of the technical meeting to devise a plan of activities held at INSTRAW headquarters in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, on 11 and 12 February 1991 for the three countries involved, Argentina, Colombia and the Dominican Republic, and the INSTRAW focal point in Italy.

26. The Deputy Director concluded her presentation by stressing that since funding was crucial INSTRAW should look at new and innovative approaches to securing funding to strengthen its financial base.

27. The Board members commented on the current programme of the Institute and suggested poss ble future directions for programme activities.

28. A Board member suggested that INSTRAW should consider undertaking activities related, for instance, to women and poverty, since a considerable proportion of the female population worked in the informal sector as petty traders without any economic support or access to credit. In so far as Latin America was concerned, the conditions for poor women in productive activities were deteriorating. She further suggested that INSTRAW should carry out that work in close collaboration with relevant international, regional and national

organizations. The suggestion to undertake work in this area was strongly supported by other Board members.

29. Another Board member sought clarification on whether the work of INSTRAW in the informal sector was distinct from its work on statistics on agriculture in the informal sector.

30. In response, the Deputy Director reported that most of INSTRAW's work had been focused on non-agricultural areas of the informal sector, particularly, services, trades and industry. She mentioned that a recommendation had been made in the INSTRAW evaluation report carried out by three donor countries to include agriculture in the Institute's current research and training activities on women in the informal sector.

31. A Board member, taking note with appreciation of INSTRAW's programme activities, commented that both the research and training activities of the Institute had been of the utmost relevance to current women's issues. However, she strongly emphasized that the impact of those activities could have been greater if INSTRAW had developed follow-up action to monitor progress made, for instance, following training workshops. With a view to ensuring that INSTRAW's programme activity was well incorporated within national programmes, the Board member referred to the training seminar organized in the United Republic of Tanzania on women and new and renewable sources of energy. She mentioned that the seminar had been attended by participants who were well placed in those policy-making government bodies directly involved in drawing up guidelines for follow-up action. She said that INSTRAW should develop a mechanism to ensure continuity of impact and activity beyond the seminar level. She pointed out, however, that if INSTRAW was to undertake such follow-up, it would be necessary to improve its financial status. Thus, she recognized the need to strengthen fund-raising activities of the Institute. INSTRAW, she said, should make every effort to enhance its cooperation with other United Nations agencies in order to strengthen the linkage between its own activities and the programmes of other agencies.

32. Another Board member commended the Institute's statistics programme, which, she said, had been the most consistent with the work on women and development, and recommended that the Institute readjust its resources to continue and expand work in that programme. She also mentioned specific areas that INSTRAW might consider for its future research and training activities on statistics, including review and revision of concepts as "head of household" and "informal sector".

33. The ex-officio Board member from the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) expressed satisfaction with the cooperation between ECE and INSTRAW in the area of generation of statistics on women. He also informed the Board of the recent work by the International Labour Organisation (ILO) on revision and reclassification of the International Classification of Status in Employment (ICSE). He stated that the revised classification could be very useful in identifying and evaluating the economic contribution of women and suggested that INSTRAW should follow closely the ongoing work.

34. The representative of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) informed the Board that the statistics programme of INSTRAW had received wide and notable recognition, which had facilitated fund-raising for the Institute. She therefore recommended that the catalytic role of INSTRAW in that area be continued. She believed that INSTRAW's training activities on statistics had extended beyond the sensitization level and had in fact helped in national development planning.

35. The UNDP representative from the Regional Bureau for Africa noted with satisfaction the results of INSTRAW's collaborative work with UNDP on implementing the statistical component of the project entitled "Improving the role of African women in the informal sector". She pointed out that the current concern was how to make those results available to both producers and users at the national policy-making level. To that end, she emphasized the importance of a communication framework to disseminate information and informed the Board that UNDP was currently exploring the possibility of support for communication activities that would include setting up a communication unit for wider dissemination of information. She mentioned that UNDP was looking forward to cooperation with INSTRAW in that activity.

36. The representative of the Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat reported on the collaborative work between INSTRAW and her office, particularly, implementation of the statistical component of the UNDP project on women in the informal sector in Africa. She emphasized that that work had broken new ground in collecting statistics on the informal sector. She pointed out that, as a result, for the first time women's contribution in the informal sector, particularly in trades, services and industry, to national production, could be estimated. She stated that the revolutionizing of compilation activities had thus been successfully achieved. She also mentioned that that project had begun with a very pragmatic and realistic approach, namely, with the collection of all current information on the "informal sector" concept and the countries' priorities. Although this was a very technical project attempts were being made to make the results more accessible to a wide number of users and to link them with policy programmes.

37. A Board member sought further information on the issue of environment and its linkages to women and development, as well as on the type of materials that would be used in developing the programme. In that connection, the Deputy Director referred to the two pillars of the environment, water and energy, and to the important role played by women as carriers of water and as main collectors and users of energy in developing countries. She also mentioned that degradation of the environment was an important issue to women and that development of the environment programme would bring visibility to INSTRAW's work on that issue.

38. The issue of different levels was brought up in reference to the environment programme. One Board member pointed out that in developing countries environment issues involved water and energy while in developed countries concern was more with industrial waste and air pollution.

39. A Board member expressed concern about the programme on choice and assessment of technology since in her country women in rural areas had access to no technology whatsoever. Another Board member pointed out that the issue should be choosing appropriate technology for different levels and groups and that the Institute should focus on women's access to technology. The attention of the Board was drawn to INSTRAW's recently published volume entitled Women's Access to Technology: Myths and Realities, which contains research results of the Institute's work on the subject.

40. Some Board members emphasized the need for Institute programmes to concentrate on fewer themes, thus enabling release of funds for translation of all its publications and training material into its three official languages. That would permit a wider diffusion and use of the Institute's material, particularly in training.

41. The Board generally supported the programme on production of training materials on women and credit as well as the continuation of activities already begun. It was also agreed that future activity in that programme should proceed according to the advice of the committee that would be established to assist the Institute in strategic programme planning. Mention was made that the Department of Technical Cooperation for Development was also preparing materials on women and credit and that future collaboration in that area could be envisaged.

42. The Board agreed that the $US 20,000 no longer required for the training module on financial policies should be devoted to publication of the report of the seminar on women and credit held in Cyprus in November 1990, organized jointly by IFAD, INSTRAW and the Mediterranean Institute of Management. In this connection, the Board endorsed future collaboration with IFAD on the seminar to be held in the Latin American region in 1991.

43. The Deputy Director informed the Board that the Women in Development (WID) training manual was the outcome of an earlier training module, which the Board, at its tenth session, had decided to update. However, because no funds had been allocated, the updating was being done in-house. She mentioned that in the biennium 1992-1993 the WID training manual update could become a priority programme.

44. The representative of the Department of Technical Cooperation for Development referred with appreciation to the collaboration between INSTRAW and her Department in the implementation of joint programmes. She mentioned particularly INSTRAW's programme on women, water supply and sanitation, and the participation of INSTRAW in the recently conducted seminar on policy development organized by the Department in Yugoslavia. She assured the Board that the Department would continue its cooperation and support for INSTRAW's programmes.

45. In regard to INSTRAW's participation in the Interregional Seminar on Policy Development for Increased Women's Participation in Public Management, organized by the Department of Technical Cooperation for Development in

cooperation with the International Center for Public Enterprises in Developing Countries (ICPE), many Board members expressed interest in the training session presented by the Deputy Director on gender stereotyping and its effects on the advancement of women. One Board member made particular reference to the plan of action resulting from that meeting, stressing its importance for women's organizations.

46. The representative of the International Centre for Advanced Technical and Vocational Training, in Turin, expressed appreciation for the long and fruitful cooperation between his organization and INSTRAW and noted his organization's intention of revising and updating the jointly produced training packages on water. He also informed the Board of the Centre's intention to increase cooperation with other United Nations training institutes and organizations and hoped to have INSTRAW's input into preparation of the training package on gender issues in programme design since training in that area was bady needed.

47. In conjunction with the programme of network building and strengthening, a Board member requested that INSTRAW's mailing list be updated to ensure that all relevant organizations received its publications as well as regular information on the Institute.

48. An INSTRAW staff member introduced the document entitled "Women and AIDS: a new dimension to discrimination" (INSTRAW/BT/1991/CRP.2), emphasizing that current knowledge on acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) was both culturally and gender biased. She pointed out that INSTRAW's participation in that project had been requesed by WHO, the lead United Nations agency in the area of research and programmes on AIDS. Because of INSTRAW's years of expertise on issues concerning women and society, its catalytic role would be to stimulate research efforts that properly identified women as key agents of disease development and to substantiate the negative impact of AIDS in women on society as a whole, especially in the long term. On the basis of such evidence, strategies and policies could be formulated to make women with AIDS and the impact on society of AIDS in women clearly visible. The Institute's catalytic role would also include pointing out gaps in research that could be filled by other United Nations specialized agencies.

49. The Board members supported INSTRAW's involvement in the important issue of AIDS but requested that the Institute committee to be established for programme planning be involved in drawing up the terms of reference for research to be undertaken, since the Institute's role needed to be very focused.

50. The representative of the Dominican Republic, the Institute's host country, assured the Board of her country's strong support of INSTRAW. She paid tribute to the important role the Institute was playing in the field of women and development.

51. The Chief Administrative Officer of INSTRAW presented the administrative and financial situation of the Institute, as reflected in documents

INSTRAW/BT/1991/R.2 and INSTRAW/BT/1991/CRP.5. He informed the meeting that the recruitment process for the various vacant Professional posts had been completed in cooperation with the Office of Human Resources Management.

52. The Board members noted with appreciation the cash balance in the trust fund at the end of 1990. The Chief Administrative Officer explained that since the Institute depended on voluntary contributions and pledges did not arrive at the beginning of the year, the Institute had to maintain a certain cash reserve to ensure continuity of its operations.

III. COOPERATION WITH REGIONAL COMMISSIONS, INSTRAW FOCAL POINTS AND CORRESPONDENTS

53. In considering item 5 of its agenda, the Board had before it the following documents:

(a) Cooperation with regional commissions, INSTRAW focal points and correspondents (INSTRAW/BT/1991/R.3 and Add.1);

(b) The first organization meeting of INSTRAW focal points from Mediterranean countries (INSTRAW/BT/1991/CRP.4).

54. The Deputy Director introduced the agenda item. She stressed the importance of working closely with the regional commissions as this was a way to outreach the Institute's activities. Equal importance was given to interaction with the INSTRAW focal points. She put before the Board for consideration some suggestions for revitalizing focal points, including granting of scholarships to the focal points to provide training in and familiarization with INSTRAW's programme of activities. Although scholarships had been offered to all five regions, she reported that only three were awarded. She suggested that the remaining two scholarships could perhaps be awarded to the two new focal points upon their approval by the Board.

55. Another way to revitalize the focal points could be through formation of regional groupings or networks of the INSTRAW focal points in cooperation with the regional commissions, in order to promote sharing of experiences and planning of joint regional programmes with the Institute. A rotating secretariat was suggested.

56. Turning to cooperation with non-governmental organizations, research and training centres and women's organizations, the Deputy Director reiterated that the Institute intended to continue to strengthen interaction with them by, for example, selecting consultants from those centres and organizations.

57. With respect to INSTRAW's collaboration with the regional commissions, the representatives of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) and the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) informed the Board of joint activities carried out with INSTRAW during the period under review. The representative of ECA

reported on such collaborative activities as national training workshops on utilizing the water packages and the UNDP-funded project on the informal sector, which was a good example of inter-agency cooperation. The representative of ESCAP noted that although the mandates of ESCAP and INSTRAW were different, they were also complementary. That regional commission therefore intended to continue cooperation in the future through the distribution, for example, of INSTRAW News.

58. The representative of ECE informed the Board of such joint activities with INSTRAW as work on time-use surveys and a second informal meeting on statistics, tentatively scheduled for February 1992. He brought to the attention of the Board the changing priorities within the Commission requiring that each programme or project address the transition taking place in Eastern Europe. He added that the Board's approval of both the new focal point from Poland and the awarding of a scholarship would provide an excellent opportunity for INSTRAW to obtain direct information and perhaps devise a programme on research and training priorities for women in countries in transition.

59. In response to a Board member's request for clarification of the concept of "parallel activities", the Deputy Director explained that based on Economic and Social Council resolution 1989/43 and General Assembly resolution 44/60, INSTRAW had been asked to develop parallel programmes with the regional commissions on the issue of women in the informal sector. Thus, during the consultative meeting held between INSTRAW and the regional commissions in February 1990, some guidelines had been drawn up for developing parallel programmes on statistics and policy on women in the informal sector. At the forthcoming meeting of the executive secretaries scheduled from 13 to 15 March 1991, an agenda item on regional cooperation for the advancement of women was to be discussed and a decision taken on "parallel activities", to be carried out between INSTRAW and the regional commissions.

60. Many views were put forth regarding interaction with focal points. Several members expressed the view that guidelines regarding their role and function should be given to approved focal points. To this end, a Board member presented a proposal for systematizing the interaction of focal points. The proposal detailed the criteria for selection, process of organization and definition of terms of reference. The President of the Board agreed that the proposal should be translated, if possible, into English and brought to the attention of the Strategic Planning Committee for its consideration.

61. The representative of ECA suggested that the Board be flexible enough in its concept of focal points to include government offices. In this connection, a Board member agreed with the need for flexibility but warned that government offices were often too involved with bureaucratic problems. Instead, she suggested that focal points, particularly in the developing countries, should be active within the mainstream.

62. Another Board member agreed that INSTRAW should be more flexible in designating focal points. However, the member emphasised that regional needs should always be taken into consideration and that the basis of choice of focal points should be that their main activities were in research and training related to women. Another Board member suggested that nomination of new focal points could be reviewed by other focal points in the region, before final approval was given.

63. Referring to the proposal for creating regional groupings, the representative of ESCAP suggested that INSTRAW allocate funds, pending Board approval, to cover the travel expenses of focal point representatives attending meetings in his region. Such meetings could be organised with the collaboration of United Nations organizations based in the region. He indicated that ESCAP facilities could, in principle, be made available for such purposes, and extended the full cooperation of the ESCAP secretariat in the convening of such meetings. Mentioning an ongoing programme in the ESCAP region, the Women's Information Network for Asia and the Pacific (WINAP), he suggested the possibility of combining this network with a regional grouping of INSTRAW focal points.

64. The Deputy Director commented that INSTRAW would make all efforts to hold regional meetings of focal points in conjunction with other INSTRAW meetings organized in a given region. Concerning the election of a rotating secretariat for the regional network of focal points, the Deputy Director mentioned that the Institute could offer some support to the secretariat in its functioning.

65. One Board member supported the suggestion that INSTRAW formulate practical work programmes for the future regional networks of INSTRAW focal points that might be established. Furthermore, she pointed out that since funds were necessary for the functioning of regional secretariats, it was most important to know what their objectives were.

66. The President of the Board, noting that focal points were a cost-effective means to increase INSTRAW's visibility at the national level, suggested that the Board consider increasing the number of focal points. She also supported the importance of drawing up revised guidelines for focal points.

67. The representative of the Secretary-General suggested that the Board might wish to consider establishing focal points on a limited-time basis. This would provide an opportunity to replace inactive focal points.

68. The focal point in Yugoslavia informed the Board of the many activities that were being carried out jointly by INSTRAW and the focal point. She reported to the Board the positive impact of the seminar on women and New and Renewable Sources of Energy (NRSE) which had resulted in numerous initiatives for bringing information to the grass-roots level.

69. The President then asked the Board to consider the nomination of focal points as contained in document INSTRAW/BT/1991/R.3/Add.1. Several Board members requested additional information about the proposed focal points before making their decision.

70. Following the Deputy Director's presentation of the Korean Women's Development Institute (KWDI) in the Republic of Korea and the Bureau of the Plenipotentiary on the Advancement of Women, in Poland, the Board approved these nominated focal points as INSTRAW focal points. Concerning DANIDA's request to transfer its focal point responsibilities to the non-governmental institution KULU, a Board member commented that this would be a good example of a shift from a government organization to an umbrella non-governmental organization dedicated to research and training in the area of women and development.

71. Regarding INSTRAW's cooperation with non-governmental organizations, the representative of IFAD referred to the interest expressed by the Iowa chapter of the United Nations Association of the United States of America (UNA/IOWA) in developing such cooperation. She requested the Board's endorsement to pursue negotiations with that institution with a view to preparing a project to be presented to the Board for consideration at its twelfth session. She also mentioned that the UNA/IOWA chapter would be in a position to raise funds for the project and was a good example of an organization that practised subregional coooperation.

IV. OUTLINE OF PREVIEW ISSUE: INSTRAW REVIEW/SPECIAL ISSUE PUBLICATIONS SERIES

72. In considering item 6 of its agenda, the Board had before it a document entitled "Preview issue: INSTRAW Review/special issue publications series" (INSTRAW/BT/1991/R.4).

73. The Deputy Director introduced the document and referred to the action taken by the Institute on production of the INSTRAW preview issue, which had been approved by the Board during its tenth session. She said that following this decision INSTRAW had examined the matter closely and had undertaken a feasibility study on how to carry out the production of a review. She emphasized that a review, as a regular periodical publication, would be an added strain on the Institute's already overburdened staff and limited budget, requiring recourse to consultants for preparation of research articles. The costs for such a publication would, therefore, be exceedingly high. Given these considerations, she proposed instead that a more feasible and less burdensome approach would be a special issue publications series to address emerging issues of great revelance and importance. Each INSTRAW special issue publication would deal with a particular subject of emerging international relevance and interest.

74. Following this proposal, the Deputy Director presented an outline of the proposed contents for the first issue, which would deal with the topic of

women and the environment. This new area of research undertaken by the Institute could provide input to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development to be held in 1992.

75. The Board in principle approved the proposal to produce a special issue publication instead of a review. A Board member stressed that a special issue publication would serve as a better tool for communicating with the academic milieu as well as for publicizing INSTRAW's profile. While the proposed topic of women and the environment was also accepted and strongly supported because of its relevance and importance, some concern was expressed regarding its scope, focus and content.

76. Some Board members commented that the topics presented in the outline were spread thin and geared more to reviewing what had been done so far. Furthermore, the suggestion to consider environmental issues by region was also questioned, given the vastness of the problems and issues of each region and the financial implications involved.

77. It was also pointed out that the budget allocation was insufficient. In this connection, some Board members expressed the view that the Review should be published in the three languages of the Institute, which would make it more costly. To this end, the representative from IFAD suggested that the regional focal points should help seek financial assistance for reproduction and translation of the Review.

78. As for the focus of this special issue publication, it was suggested that those areas which were relatively unexplored should be identified and highlighted.

79. Several recommendations were put forward for consideration. A Board member pointed to the need for a general analytical framework for the issue that would underline women's role in the environment, with the other issues proposed in the outline presented as secondary topics.

80. The representative of the Department of Technical Cooperation for Development informed the Board of its upcoming activities on environment. While these would focus on environmental management and policy issues in general, she suggested that INSTRAW should collaborate in order to ensure the inclusion of women's perspectives.

81. The Board approved the proposal made by the Institute to shift from the preparation of a review to that of a special issue publication. It suggested that the proposed outline be revised taking into account the comments made.

V. DEVELOPMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS MATERIALS ON WOMEN AND DEVELOPMENT

82. In considering item 7 of its agenda, the Board had before it a document entitled "Development of communications materials on women and development" (INSTRAW/BT/1991/R.5).

83. In introducing the programme, the Deputy Director mentioned that the importance of communications on women's issues had long been recognized by INSTRAW, which, in October 1988, had organized an International Consultative Meeting on Communications on Women and Development. She stated that the programme under review was an offshoot of recommendations that had emanated from that meeting. Thanks to collaboration with Associazione Italiana Donne per lo Sviluppo (AIDOS), INSTRAW's focal point in Italy, and funding from the Government of Italy, implementation of the project had been made possible. She then presented an outline of the programme that indicated general and specific objectives and project design and included a draft of the project plan. As for the implementation of programme activity, she reported that upon receipt of funds INSTRAW would start to carry out initial activities during the latter part of 1991.

84. She informed the Board that a participatory meeting had been held at INSTRAW headquarters in Santo Domingo on 11 and 12 February. The consultants engaged from the participating project countries, Argentina, Colombia and the Dominican Republic, together with experts from AIDOS and the INSTRAW project coordinator, had disucssed and finalised the project's framework. During this meeting a draft project plan for the research to be conducted by the national consultants towards elaboration of country profiles had been discussed and revised, taking into account country specificities. The Deputy Director informed the Board that the meeting had recommended that once research was completed national training workshops should be convened to present the results, which would serve as a guide for determining follow-up activities in specific countries.

85. The Deputy Director concluded her presentation by introducing subsequent project training stages, for some of which additional funding would be required.

86. Several views were expressed on the development and focus of the project. A Board member suggested that legislation related to discrimination against women in the media should be incorporated within the project. She also inquired about the type of training material that would be developed, as well as its target groups. Recognizing the relevance of the issue, she further proposed that the initial results of the programme be considered as a topic for the next INSTRAW special issue publication.

87. The Deputy Director agreed concerning the importance of legislation related to discrimination against women in the media and welcomed the suggestion of considering communications as the next topic for INSTRAW's special issue series. This was also supported by the President of the Board. As for target groups, she said that the project was aimed at both rural and urban women, although preference would be given to a focus on rural women.

88. The representative from the United States Council for INSTRAW commented that the project plan should take into account the research conducted by other United Nations agencies and bodies. She also pointed out that funds should be allocated for follow-up action and implementation of training activities.

89. The representative of IFAD informed the Board that a Costa Rican centre for training in the area of women and communications, called the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture, had suggested that it should become involved, given its experience in communications in the region. She also was of the opinion that funds should be provided for follow-up activities.

90. Because of financial constraints and the highly probable growth of the project, the President of the Board suggested that more countries might be covered in future years. She therefore recommended that Governments might be apprised of initial findings and requested to implement the activities at the national level.

91. The discussion concluded with some clarifications from the Deputy Director. She explained that after completion of the research phase national workshops would be convened and indicated that INSTRAW would prepare a paper to be reviewed by the Board before proceeding to subsequent stages of the project. She also mentioned that in anticipation of implementation of further activities, INSTRAW would begin to explore other funding possibilities.

VI. OTHER MATTERS RELATED TO THE FUNCTIONING OF THE INSTITUTE

92. With reference to earlier inquiries concerning the financial situation of the Institute and in order to enable members of the Board to make programme projections, the Executive Officer of the Department of Technical Cooperation for Development of the Secretariat and of INSTRAW suggested that available resources should be examined in relation to future commitments. Assuring the Board of Trustees of adequate funds to complete activities for 1991, he emphasized the Board's role in assisting the Institute's management in fund-raising efforts for the biennium 1992-1993.

93. Under this agenda item strategies for the future strengthening and activating of the focal points were discussed. Since it was generally agreed that some potential as well as established focal points were not clear about their role and responsibilities, several recommendations were put forward, namely, formalization of guidelines and circulation of a brochure for those interested in becoming focal points; establishment of an initial appointment of three years after which period the focal point's performance would be reviewed as a basis for renewal; and development of a more structured procedure for accession to focal point status.

94. The location of INSTRAW headquarters was discussed. The Board unanimously confirmed that the headquarters of the Institute should remain in the Dominican Republic but supported measures for its outreach at national and regional levels. One example of outreach would be the relocation of some of the programmes, such as water, energy and statistics, to the INSTRAW New York Office with a view to strenghtening operations. The Board also recommended that possibilities for establishing INSTRAW regional representation in Europe,

Africa and Asia should be explored in close collaboration with the regional commissions, regional development banks and INSTRAW approved national focal points.

95. The representative of the host country expressed her appreciation for the Board's decision regarding the location of Institute headquarters and reassured it of continued support from the host Government.

96. The role of the Board was discussed. It was recommended that Board members exercise a more active participation by forming two committees in conformity with rule 18 of the rules of procedure of the INSTRAW Board of Trustees. One committee would be responsible for strategic planning while the other would assist the Director in fund-raising activities. It was proposed that the Strategic Planning Committee should comprise five members - one Board member from each of the four regions and one member representing the regional commissions. Composition of the Finance Committee would be determined at a later date.

97. A lengthy discussion on terms of reference and formation of the advisory committees ensued.

98. The Board approved the following terms of reference of the Strategic Planning Committee:

(a) To recommend objectives and priorities to the Board, including publications related to the programme for the biennium 1992-1993, while taking into account the principles of outreach, coordination and coherence. The Committee would also consider feedback from other agencies on upcoming trends in the area of Women in Development (WID) relevant to the Institute's programmes and examine ongoing programmes in depth;

(b) To prepare a strategy for placing INSTRAW's work in the mainstream through focal points, non-governmental organizations, regional commissions and, once established, INSTRAW regional representations. Such a strategy would include strengthening INSTRAW's relationship with WID agencies as well as other agencies working in the area of women and development, to increase efficiency and prevent unnecessary overlap and duplication of effort;

(c) To recommend to the Board ways and means of promoting the widest possible dissemination of INSTRAW information through publication in English, French and Spanish, whenever possible.

99. The Board approved the following terms of referfence of the Finance Committee:

(a) To assist the Board in developing fund-raising strategies in order to establish a strong and reliable financial base for INSTRAW's activities;

(b) To identify ways and means of fund-raising using government organizations at the national, regional and international levels;

(c) To examine the issue of the cost-effectiveness of INSTRAW's projects and to provide advisory assistance to the Director in setting up budgetary priorities;

(d) To be responsible for reporting to the Board on INSTRAW's fund-raising activities.

VII. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE BOARD ON ITS ELEVENTH SESSION

100. At its 7th meeting, on 22 February 1991, the Board adopted the report on its eleventh session (INSTRAW/BT/1991/R.6 and Add.1-5).

VIII. ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

A. Opening and duration of the session

101. The eleventh session of the Board of Trustees of INSTRAW was held at United Nations Headquarters from 19 to 22 February 1991. The Board held seven meetings.

102. The session was opened by Gule Afruz Mahbub, in her capacity as Vice-President of the Board.

103. The Assistant Secretary-General for Development and International Economic Cooperation, representing the Secretary-General, addressed the Board. He stressed that the institution, having now grown and become an adult member of the United Nations family, could proudly show a vast array of accomplishments in various areas essential for improving the economic and social condition of women, particularly in the developing world. He said that 1992-1993 provided a timely opportunity for the Board to participate in a strategic planning exercise; to this end, a small working group of the Board could be established with a view to continuing a planning exercise in future months. He emphasized the Secretary-General's belief that the catalytic, initiating role that INSTRAW had played so well within the United Nations system over the past years could be further enhanced by maintaining the autonomous status of the Institute and strengthening its cooperation with those institutions within the system whose activities were operational and complementary. However, he cautioned that strategic planning of the Institute's substantive activities required a solid and realistic financial basis and that the availability of resources for the period covered by such planning was essential for its success.

104. INSTRAW's Deputy Director/Officer-in-Charge also made an opening statement.

B. Attendance

105. The following members of the Board attended the session: Virginia Olivo de Celli (Venezuela), Fabiola Cuvi Ortiz (Ecuador), Hawa Diallo (Mali), Pilar Escario Rodriguez-Spiteri (Spain), Penelope R. Fenwick (New Zealand), Elena Atanassova Lagadinova (Bulgaria), Gule Afruz Mahbub (Bangladesh), Gertrude Ibengwe Mongella (United Republic of Tanzania), Amara Ponsapich (Thailand) and Kristin Tornes (Norway). Victoria Okobi (Nigeria) was unable to attend.

106. The following ex-officio members of the Board also attended: the Assistant Secretary-General for Development and International Economic Cooperation, representing the Secretary-General, representatives of ECE, ESCAP and ECA and the representative of the Dominican Republic, the host country of the Institute.

107. Representatives of the Department of Technical Cooperation for Development, of the Statistical Office of the Secretariat of the Office of Human Resources Management and of the Division for the Advancement of Women of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs attended the session, as well as representatives of UNDP.

108. A representative of the ILO International Centre for Advanced Technical and Vocational Training, Turin, also attended the session.

109. A representative of IFAD attended the session.

110. A representative of ICPE also attended the session.

111. Representatives of the NGO Committee on the United Nations Decade for Women, comprising over 50 organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, attended the session.

112. Observers for the approved INSTRAW focal points of Italy, the United States of America and Yugoslavia also attended the session.

C. Election of officers

113. At its 1st meeting, in accordance with rule 7 of its rules of procedure, the Board elected the following officers by acclamation:

President: Gule Afruz Mahbub (Bangladesh)

Vice-President: Virginia Olivo de Celli (Venezuela)

Rapporteur: Penelope R. Fenwick (New Zealand)

D. Agenda

114. At its 1st meeting, the Board adopted the following agenda for its eleventh session:

1. Opening of the session.

2. Adoption of the agenda.

3. Election of officers.

4. Implementation of the work programme for 1990: progress report on the Institute.

5. Cooperation with regional commissions, INSTRAW focal points and correspondents.

6. Outline of preview issue: INSTRAW Review.

7. Development of communications materials on women and development.

8. Other matters related to the functioning of the Institute.

9. Adoption of the report of the Board on its eleventh session.